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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3-11 and 13 as follows:

1. (Previously presented) A method of locating a position on a linear data storage medium onto which data are to be written, said method comprising the steps of:

transporting said linear data storage medium past a read head;

reading linear position data describing a linear position along said linear data storage medium;

determining an approximate position of an append position from which to start writing data by responding to the read linear position;

having found said approximate position of said append point, reading an absolute C1 code word quad identifier number to identify individual C1 code word quads along the length of said data storage medium;

comparing said read absolute C1 code word quad number with a target absolute C1 code word quad number;

finding a correspondence between said read absolute C1 code word quad number and said target absolute C1 code word quad number;

if a match between said read absolute C1 code word quad and said target absolute C1 code word quad number is found, then

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generating an interrupt signal to interrupt transport of said data storage medium past said read head; and

then commencing a write operation at a position on the medium where said read absolute C1 code word quad number matches said target absolute C1 code word quad number.

2. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of reading an absolute C1 code word quad number comprises:

reading at least one absolute C1 code word quad number.

3. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprises the ~~steps~~ step of:

distinguishing between a first and second written C1 code word pair within a same C1 code word quad, by searching for a synchronization field selected from the set[[]];

a forward synchronization field;

a back synchronization field; and

a re-synchronization data field.

4. (Currently amended) A method of locating an append point along a length of linear data storage medium, said append point indicating a position onto which data are to be written along said linear data storage medium, said method comprising the steps of:

reading a plurality of absolute C1 code word quad numbers from at least one track of said data storage medium;

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comparing said read absolute C1 code word quad number with a pre-stored target absolute C1 code word quad number;

finding a match between a read absolute C1 code word quad number and said stored target absolute C1 code word quad number;
and

generating an interrupt signal for interrupt of transport of said tape data storage medium based on the found match.

5. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 4, further comprising the step steps of:

distinguishing between a pair of absolute C1 code word quad numbers read from a pair of C1 code word pairs within a C1 code word quad; and

selecting said append point as a first said C1 code word pair within said C1 code word quad.

6. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 4, further comprising the step of:

distinguishing between a pair of absolute C1 code word quad numbers, read from respective first and second C1 code word pairs within a C1 code word quad by examining a data field selected from the set[[]];

a forward synchronization data field;

a re-synchronization data field;

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a back synchronization data field; and
a data separation data field.

7. (Currently amended) A memory storing a computer program comprising program instructions for enabling a computer to locate a position on a data storage medium onto which data are to be written, said program instructions being such as to cause the computer to perform a method comprising:

transporting said data storage medium past a read head;

reading [[a]] linear position data describing a linear position along said linear data storage medium;

determining an approximate position of an append position from which to start writing data by responding to the read linear position;

having found said approximate position of said append point, reading an absolute C1 code word quad identifier number to identify individual C1 code word quads along the length of said data storage medium;

comparing said read absolute C1 code word quad numbers with a target absolute C1 code word quad number;

finding a correspondence between said read absolute C1 code word quad number and said target absolute C1 code word quad number;

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if a match between said read absolute C1 code word quad and said target absolute C1 code word quad number is found, then generating an interrupt signal to interrupt transport of said data storage medium past said read head; and

then commencing a write operation at a position on the medium where said read absolute C1 code word quad number matches said target absolute C1 code word quad number.

8. (Currently amended) A recording medium comprising program instruction data for enabling a computer to locate a position on a data storage medium onto which data are to be written, said program instructions being such as to cause a computer to perform a method comprising the steps of:

transporting said data storage medium past a read head;

reading [[a]] linear position data describing a linear position along said linear data storage medium;

determining an approximate position of an append position from which to start writing data by responding to the read linear position;

having found said approximate position of said append point, reading an absolute C1 code word quad identifier number to identify individual C1 code word quads along the length of said data storage medium;

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comparing said read absolute C1 code word quad numbers with a target absolute C1 code word quad number;

finding a correspondence between said read absolute C1 code word quad number and said target absolute C1 code word quad number;

if a match between said read absolute C1 code word quad and said target absolute C1 code word quad number is found, then generating an interrupt signal to interrupt transport of said data storage medium past said read head; and

then commencing a write operation at a position on the medium where said read absolute C1 code word quad number matches said target absolute C1 code word quad number.

9. (Currently amended) The recording medium as claimed in claims claim 8, comprising a read only memory device.

10. (Currently amended) An electrical signal comprising digital program instruction data for enabling a computer to locate a position on a data storage medium onto which data are to be written, said program instructions being such as to cause a computer to perform a method comprising the steps of:

transporting said data storage medium past a read head;

reading [[a]] linear position data describing a linear position along said linear data storage medium;

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determining an approximate position of an append position from which to start writing data by responding to the read linear position;

having found said approximate position of said append point, reading an absolute C1 code word quad identifier number to identify individual C1 code word quads along the length of said data storage medium;

comparing said read absolute C1 code word quad numbers with a target absolute C1 code word quad number;

finding a correspondence between said read absolute C1 code word quad number and said target absolute C1 code word quad number;

if a match between said read absolute C1 code word quad and said target absolute C1 code word quad number is found, then generating an interrupt signal to interrupt transport of said data storage medium past said read head; and

then commencing a write operation at a position on said medium where said read absolute C1 code word quad number which matches said target absolute C1 code word quad number.

11. (Currently amended) A tape data storage device comprising:

a read head and a write head;

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a tape transport mechanism for transporting said linear tape data storage medium across said read head and said write head; and
a search component operable to:

read a linear position data describing a linear position along said linear tape data storage medium;

determine an approximate position of an append position from which to start writing data in response to the read linear position;

read an absolute C1 code word quad identifier number to identify individual C1 code word quads along a length of said linear tape data storage medium;

compare said read absolute C1 code word quad number with a target absolute C1 code word quad number;

find a correspondence between said read absolute C1 code word quad number and said target absolute C1 code word quad number;

if a match between said read absolute C1 code word quad and said target absolute C1 code word quad number is found, then generate an interrupt signal to interrupt transport of said linear tape data storage medium past said read head; and

then commence a write operation at a position on the medium where said read absolute C1 code word quad number which matches said target absolute C1 code word quad number.

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12. (Previously presented) A method of locating a position on a data storage medium from which to write data, said method comprising the steps of:

transporting said linear data storage medium past a read head;

reading an absolute C1 code word quad identifier number to identify an individual C1 code word quad along a length of said data storage medium;

comparing said read absolute C1 code word quad number with a target absolute C1 code word quad number;

determining a correspondence between said read absolute C1 code word quad number and said target absolute C1 quad number; and

on finding a correspondence, generating an interrupt signal to interrupt transport of said data storage medium past said read head.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising responding to the interrupt signal by commencing a write operation at a position on the medium where said read absolute C1 code word quad number which matches said target absolute C1 code word quad number.